



Ha Ha - Hiatus

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DAN SHIPSIDES - ha ha hiatus right & left doors

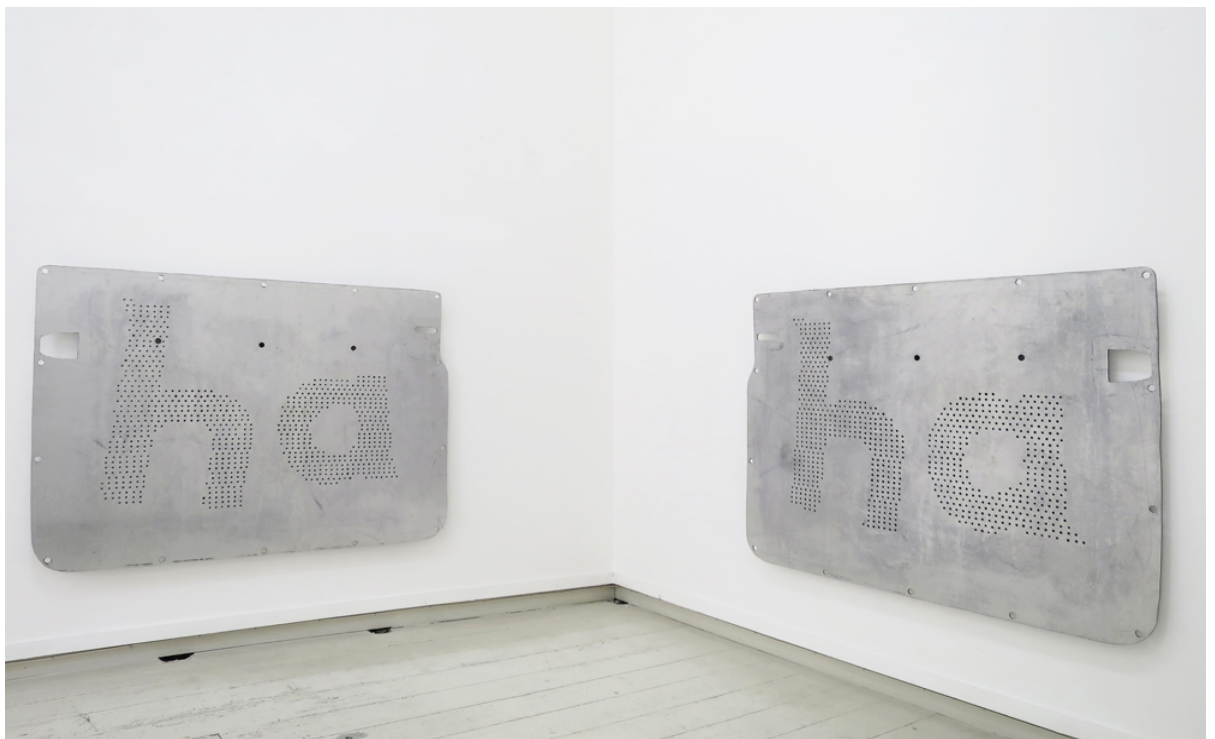
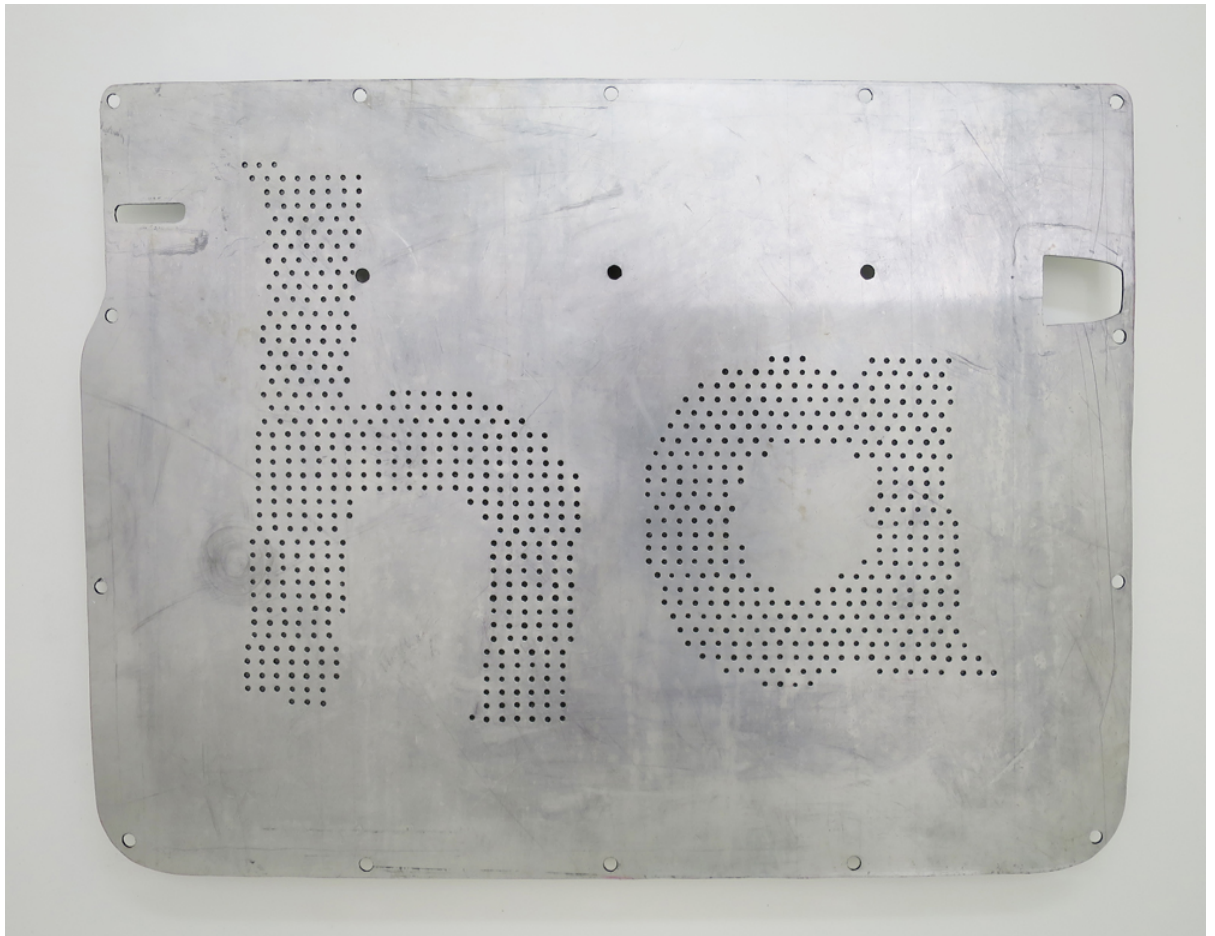
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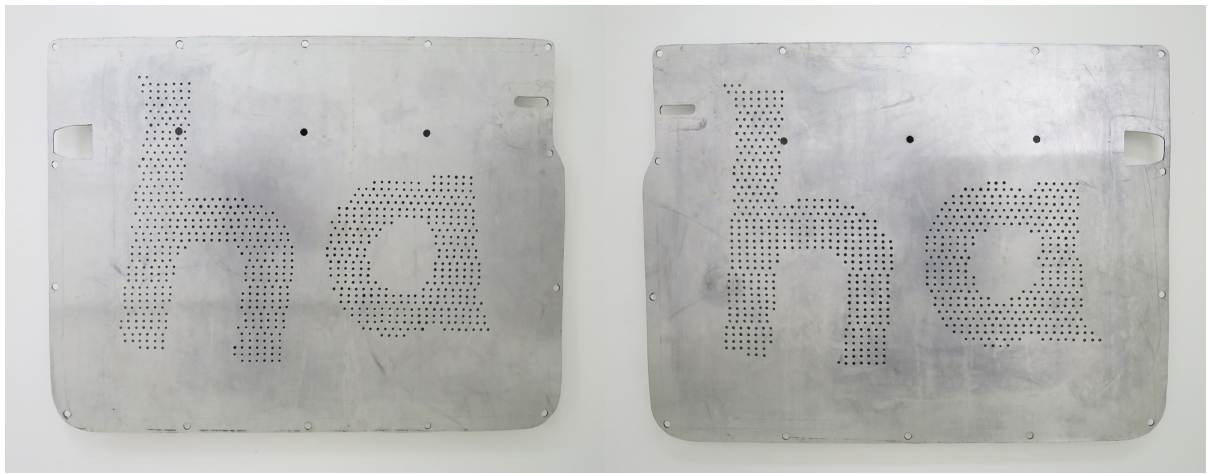
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"ha" Hiatus: Right (Bespoke righthand VW van door panel.)

"ha" Hiatus: Left (Bespoke lefthand VW van door panel.)

Dibond. Aluminum hanging
Each approx 100cm x 76cm x 3mm

Dan Shipsides
2015

This is a work which relates to Alfred Jarry's amazing and beautiful book 'Exploits and Opinions of Dr Faustroll, Pataphysician' written in 1898 but published posthumously in 1911.

In it, Dr Faustroll's side-kick Bosse-De-Nage, a dog faced baboon, speaks often but only ever says 'Ha, Ha'. Chapter 29 generously elaborates some thoughts concerning the words 'Ha' 'Ha' where ideas connecting with time, space, duplicity and oppositionality are expanded and grounded in these sounds. Also relevant is that Faustroll and his side-kick (oh, and a bailiff who is chained to the oars...) travel through a strange archipelago in a 'boat' which is actually a sieve made of a material which repels water absorption, allowing it to skim just above the surface. It sounds absurd, and it is, but these ideas pre-figure many concepts that have since emerged from the world of physics.

So anyway, I needed to replace some damp wooden slide door panels in my VW van and so I decided to use dibond - a material which would not hold moisture and therefore would be a better material to use. My children and I love travelling in the van on adventures to the sea or the mountains and we love waking up in new places, sliding the doors open to the often (but sometimes not so...) fantastic views. So it seemed pertinent, and fun, to drill, with hundreds of holes, the words 'ha' 'ha', one for the left door and the other on the right door, to celebrate or mark the moment and to recognize the time and space we are in. It's fun too because opening and closing the two slide-doors physically acts as the articulation of a reciprocal laugh. So, every time we open the doors we make life, art and laughter (see Dumas's 1933 essay on pataphysical laughter). My kids love and understand this, without the over-complications of theory - but they also understand time travel too.

Chapter 9 (abridged):**CONCERNING SOME FURTHER AND MORE
EVIDENT MEANINGS OF THE WORDS "HA HA"**

We may properly treat here of the customary and succinct speech of Bosse-de-Nage, so that it may be made clear that it is with reasonable intention and not from mockery that we have always reported it in its full extent, together with the most probable cause of its premature interruption.

"Ha Ha," he said concisely, but we are in no way concerned with the accidental fact that he usually added nothing more.

In the first instance, it is more judicious to use the orthography AA for the aspiration 'h' was never written in the ancient languages of the world. It proclaimed in Bosse-de-Nage effort, servile and obligatory labor, and the consciousness of his inferiority.

'A' juxtaposed to 'A', with the former obviously equal to the latter, is the formula of the principle of identity, a thing is itself. It is at the same time the most excellent refutation of this very proposi-

tion, since the two A's differ in space, when we write them, if not indeed in time, just as two twins are never born together - even when issuing from the obscure hiatus of the mouth of Bosse-de-Nage.

The first 'A' was perhaps congruent to the second, and we will therefore willingly write thus; $A \approx A$.

Pronounced quickly enough, until the letters become confounded, it is the idea of unity.

Pronounced slowly, it is the idea of duality, of echo, of distance, of symmetry, of greatness and duration, of the two principles of good and evil.

But this duality proves also that the perception of Bosse-de-Nage was notoriously discontinuous, not to say discontinuous and analytical, unsuited to all syntheses and to all adaptations.

One may confidently assume that he could only perceive space in two dimensions, and was refractory to the idea of progress, implying, as it does, a spiral figure.

It would be a complicated problem to study, in addition, whether the first 'A' was the efficient cause of the second. Let us content ourselves with noting that since Bosse-de-Nage usually uttered only AA and nothing more (AAA would be the medical formula Amalgamate), he had evidently no notion of the Holy Trinity, nor of all things triple, nor of the undefined, which commences at three, nor of the indeterminate, nor of the Universe, which may be defined as the Several.

Some simple studies of space and time travel:



This work was purchased for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's collection in 2018.

